the power generated from Tala HEP would be available to Eastern Region (ER) and equivalent thermal power will be made available to the Northern Region (NR) from the thermal power stations located in the Eastern Region. Integration of NR with ER has been planned under the Tala Transmission system which would provide inter-regional transmission capacity of 2000 MW between ER and NR.

Setting-up of Food Processing Units in Rural and Urban Areas

1. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of subsidies/grants available for setting-up food processing units in rural/urban areas, separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that subsidies/grants in respect of certain industries have been withdrawn recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) Subsidies/grants for setting up food processing units are available for both rural or urban areas at the same rates. The details are given below:

Scheme/Programme	Rates of Grant-in-aid
Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries	25% (subject to a maximum of Rs.50/- lakh in General Areas) and 33.33% (subject to a maximum of Rs. 75/- lakh in Different Areas i.e. J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim, North-Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Integrated Tribal Development Project Areas) of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works.

(b) to (d) Financial assistance for setting up/upgradation of projects related to soft drinks/aerated water/mineral water including natural spring water were stopped w.e.f. 06.02.04. Similarly, financial assistance to rice mills, flour mills and pulse processing units were discontinued w.e.f.

01.04.04. This was based on a review of the funds available and prioritization of assistance to various Sub-Sectors giving importance to perishables and the need to raise farmers' incomes by reducing wastage.

Policy for betterment of FPIs and Agri-business

2. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Empowered Committee of Ministers had approved the policy for the betterment of food processing industries and Agri-business;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas in which the intending enterpreneurs are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (c) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on Integrated Strategy for promotion of Agri-business—vision, strategy & action plan for the food processing sector. The GoM will consider various action plans, such as, tax regime, infrastructure status to the investments in food processing industries, private and FDI in infrastructure, availability of processable raw materials, capacity building of small and unorganized sector, institutional framework, Integrated Food Law with a single apex regulator, etc. with a view to promote investments in the Sector. The GoM has not yet finalized its recommendations.

Setting-up of food parks in Uttaranchal

†3. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Uttaranchal has submitted any proposal to his Ministry with regard to setting-up of food parks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is considering any proposal to increase the amount of Central subsidy to be provided for construction of food parks; and

(d) if so, the amount proposed to be fixed for the same?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.